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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/653,997	09/01/2000	Clarence H. Martin	TB3/TL	6792

23844 7590 04/07/2004

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P O BOX 927649
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EXAMINER

PATEL, RAMESH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/653,997

Applicant(s)

MARTIN ET AL.

Examiner

Ramesh B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-179 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-179 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5, 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-40 and 161, drawn to a method comprising defining a pattern to be formed on a textile material, classified in class 700, subclass 131.
- II. Claims 41-92, 115-125, 133-143, 148-160, 162, 165-167 and 175-178, drawn to a method and an apparatus for a laser to process a material by controlling scan lines of the laser to have controlled energy density depending of effective power levels, classified in class 700, subclass 166.
- III. Claims 93-114, and 163-164, drawn to a method of processing garment, classified in class 700, subclass 142.
- IV. Claims 126-132 and 144-147, drawn to a method defining an image of a whisker part, classified in class 399, subclass 359.
- V. Claims 168-174 and 179, drawn to file format comprising matrix of value representing an amount of effective applied power, classified in class 700, subclass 262.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group I, II, III, IV and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04,

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MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions Group I is related to a method comprising defining a pattern to be formed on a textile material, Group II is related to a method and an apparatus for a laser to process a material by controlling scan lines of the laser to have controlled energy density depending of effective power levels, Group III related to a method of processing garment, group IV related to a method defining an image of a whisker part while the Group V is related to file format comprising matrix of value representing an amount of effective applied power.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II-V, the search for Group II is not required for Groups I and III-V, the search for Group III is not required for Groups I-II and IV-V, the search for Group IV is not required for Groups I-III and V and the search for Group V is not required for Groups I-IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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6. A telephone call was made to Mr. Harris, Scott C. (Reg. No. 32,030) on 4/5/2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made. Applicant has requested to provide a formal election/restriction requirement.


7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143). Also, the applicant is requested to cancel non-elected claim(s) in response to this office action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh B. Patel whose telephone number is 703-308-6673. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th; 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anil Khatri can be reached on 703-305-0282. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-9051 for regular communications and 703-305-3718 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.


Ramesh B. Patel
Primary Examiner 4/5/04
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April 5, 2004